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poison, have been isolated from a considerable number of species regarded ordinarily as dangerous only in a minor way or merely suspicious; and there seems little reason to doubt that much of the ambiguity attending fungi of this class comes from the conversion, in their incipient decay, of a minor and perhaps scanty poisonous substance into a much more dangerous one, so that personal idiosyncrasy or differences between individuals in strength of heart action seem capable of accounting for the divergence of opinion as to the edibility of a number of the dangerous species, like Boletuses, *Gyromitra esculenta*, certain Russulas, *Lepiota morgani*, and, indeed, the *Amanita muscaria* itself.

T.

North-American Pteridophytes. — A sixth edition of Professor Underwood's handbook of the ferns and fern allies occurring north of Mexico,¹ which appears to have been carefully revised, has recently appeared and is likely to meet with ready sale. In it are incorporated records of the occurrence in one flora of several species not before recorded for it, and descriptions of several species regarded as new to science. The author's recent comprehensive investigations of the priority status of generic names in the ferns have been consistently followed up in this book by the rehabilitation of the well-known species of *Cystopteris* in the genus *Filix*, and of what has been known as *Blechnum* (or *Lomaria*) *Spicant* in the genus *Struthiopteris*, while *Aspidium* is now replaced by *Dryopteris*, *Polystichum*, *Phanerophlebia*, and *Tectaria*.

T.

Notes. — An interesting note by Professor Kellerman, on an Ohio station for *Cissus ampelopsis* or *Ampelopsis cordata*, with illustrations, appears in the first number of a new journal, *The O. S. U. Naturalist*, published by the biological club of the Ohio State University, which also contains a list of additions to the Ohio flora, notes on collecting and preserving microscopical plants, and a paper by Kellerman on a foliicolous form of *Ustilago reiliana*, which species is believed to possess the characters of *Cintractia* rather than of *Ustilago* proper.

Viola alabamensis, a new purple-flowered acaulescent species, is described by Pollard in a recent issue of *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*.

A revision of the Cactaceæ of Paraguay, by Schumann, is being published in current numbers of the *Monatsschrift für Kakteenkunde*.

¹ Underwood, L. M. *Our Native Ferns and their Allies, with Synoptical Descriptions of the American Pteridophytes North of Mexico*. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1900. x + 158 pp., 35 ff., and frontispiece plate. Price, \$1.00.

G. P. Burns publishes an illustrated anatomical study of the Stylidiaceæ in *Flora* for October.

The purple cone-flowers, *Echinacea purpurea* and *E. angustifolia*, have been hybridized for cultural purposes, as appears from a note, with illustrations, by Köhler, in *Die Gartenwelt* for October 20.

Curtis's Botanical Magazine for November contains illustrations of *Erigeron leiomerus* and *Cypripedium guttatum*, of the North-American flora.

A revision of the species of *Platanus* by Usteri appears in No. 20 of the *Mémoires de l'Herbier Boissier*.

A short popular article on *Monstera deliciosa*, with photographic illustrations, by Theodosia B. Shepherd, is contained in *The Land of Sunshine* for September–October.

A review of the Rocky Mountain Melanthaceæ by Rydberg appears in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* for October. Several species, and one genus, *Stenanthella*, split off from *Stenanthium*, are described as new.

K. M. Wiegand presents a revision of the *tenuis* group of *Juncus*, in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* for October. Thirteen species are recognized.

A well-illustrated "Short Account of the Big Trees of California" constitutes *Bulletin No. 28* of the Division of Forestry of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Keys to species of *Abies* and *Picea* based on leaf anatomy are given in a paper by H. B. Dorner, reprinted from the *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* for 1899.

The distribution of Chilian Coniferæ forms the subject of a paper by Karl Reiche in the current volume of the *Verhandlungen des deutschen wissenschaftlichen Vereins* of Santiago. Six genera, *Podocarpus*, *Dacrydium*, *Saxegothea*, *Araucaria*, *Fitzroya*, and *Libocedrus*, are considered.

The variations in *Lycopodium clavatum*, and their bearing on phylogeny, are discussed in a paper illustrated with three plates, by R. A. Robertson, in Part IV of the current volume of *Transactions and Proceedings of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh*.

The second fascicle of de Wildeman and Durand's "Contributions à la flore du Congo," published as a part of the *Annales du Musée du Congo*, of Brussels, has recently been completed by the issuance of a

second part, and contains descriptions of a considerable number of new species.

Professor Ascherson contributes a synopsis of the higher vegetation of Helgoland to Vol. IV, N.F., of the *Wissenschaftliche Meeresuntersuchungen* of the Commission for the Scientific Investigation of the German Sea.

Part I of the third volume of Boerlage's *Handleiding tot de kennis der flora van nederlandsch Indie*, comprising the orders Nyctaginaceæ to Casuarinaceæ, has recently appeared.

A series of contributions to the knowledge of the trees of Java, by Koorders and Valeton, is appearing in current numbers of the *Mededeelingen uit 's Lands Plantentuin*, of Buitenzorg.

A paper on "Some Plants of West Virginia," by E. L. Morris, is published in the *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington*, under date of October 31.

A number of papers on the plant geography of North America, presented at the New York meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, are published in abstract in recent numbers of *Science*.

A delightfully simple elementary statement of "How Plants Live Together," by Bailey, constitutes *Teacher's Leaflet*, No. 19, of the Cornell University Experiment Station.

An ecological comparison of the arctic and antarctic floras, by Delpino, is reprinted from the publications of the *R. accademia delle scienze dell istituto di Bologna* for 1900.

The structural and superficial modifications induced in a number of succulents, when grown with a liberal supply of moisture, are considered by Brenner in an illustrated paper in *Flora* for October.

Die Gartenwelt for October 27 contains an interesting statement by M. Correvon of the successful manner in which he cultivates Alpine plants in the crevices of a wall in the suburbs of Geneva, and is illustrated by several half-tones, — among them a superb portrait of *Saxifraga longifolia*.

Bulletin 46 of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Nevada, which is No. 2 of the nature-study bulletins of that institution, deals with the flowers and fruits of common trees and shrubs. *Bulletin 47* of the same series considers clover seeds and their impurities. Both are well illustrated.

The harvesting and preparation of balsam of Peru from *Myroxylon Pereire* are described by Preuss in *Der Tropenpflanzer* for November with process illustrations.

Further notes on the plants known as Peyote and Ololiuhqui, by Dr. Urbina, are contained in recent numbers of the *Anales del Museo nacional de México*.

The botanical origin of coca leaves is considered quite fully by Rusby in *The Druggist's Circular* for November.

Two papers on marl, of botanical interest, are published in No. 6 of the current volume of the *Journal of Geology* by Professor C. A. Davis.

Dr. Kuckuck, in Bd. IV, N.F., of the *Wissenschaftliche Meeresuntersuchungen* of the Commission for the scientific investigation of the German Sea, describes his method of cultivating algæ in the open seas.

A voluminous account of the older Mesozoic flora of the United States, by Professor Lester F. Ward, is separately published from Vol. XX of the *Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey*.

An elaboration of the fossil cycads of the Yale museum, by Professor Ward, is reprinted from the *American Journal of Science*.

A biographic sketch of Torrey, and an account of the work of the Torrey Botanical Club, appear in the October *Bulletin* of that organization.

A portrait of Ernest Roze is published in No. 7 of the current volume of the *Bulletin de la société botanique de France*.

PALEOBOTANY.

A New Book on Fossil Plants.¹—Dr. Scott's important contributions to our knowledge of fossil plants are too well known to students of palæobotany to need any introduction. The present work is a very satisfactory summary of much of his former work, and the substance of it was first presented in the form of a series of lectures delivered at University College, London, in 1896. The lectures, however, have been entirely recast and brought up to date.

¹ Scott, D. H. *Studies in Fossil Botany*. London, Adam and Charles Black, 1900. xiii + 533 pp., 8vo, 151 figs.